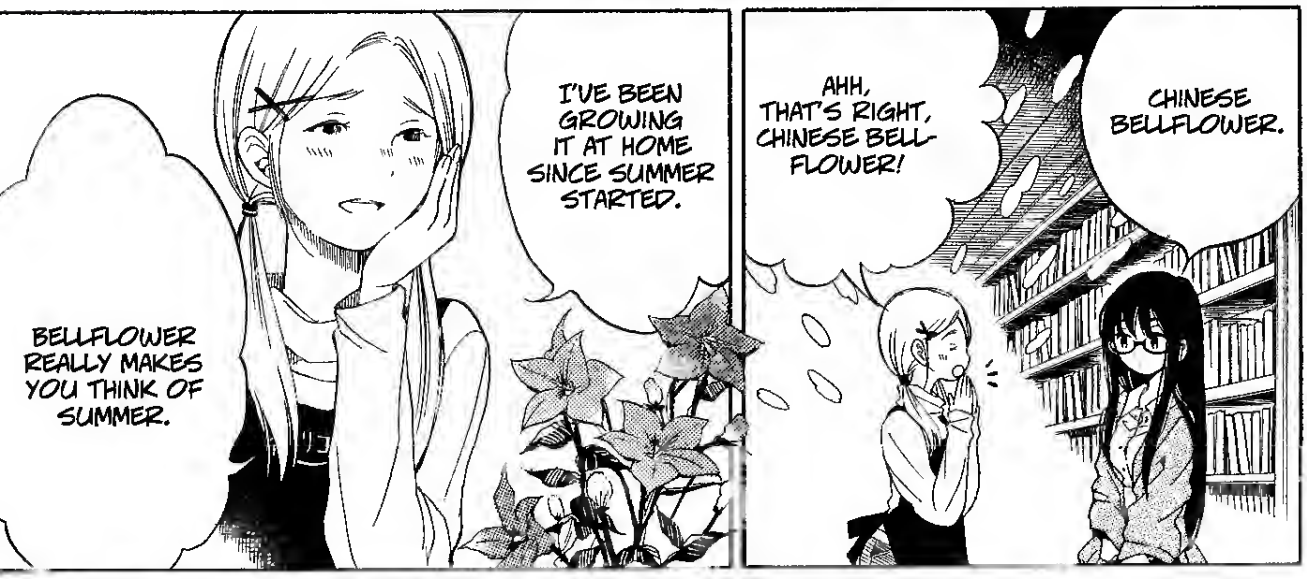
It's autumn.
CLOVER, SILVER GRASS, ARROWROOT,
PINK DIANTHUS, PATRINIA, BONESET... AND...

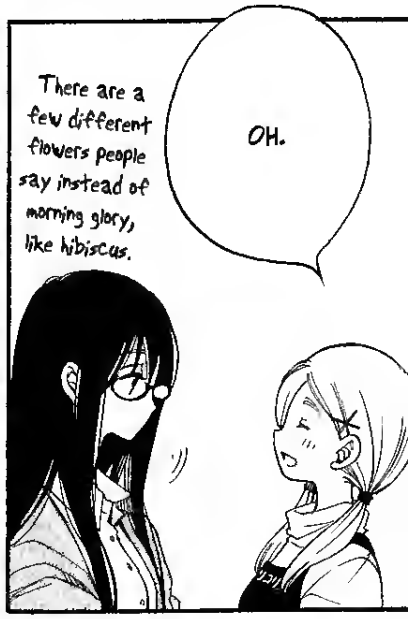

CHINESE BELLFLOWER.
AHH, THAT'S RIGHT, CHINESE BELL-FLOWER!
I'VE BEEN GROWING IT AT HOME SINCE SUMMER STARTED.
BELLFLOWER REALLY MAKES YOU THINK OF SUMMER.

Chapter 32
YAMANOUE NOOKURA WROTE ABOUT THE SEVEN FLOWERS OF AUTUMN IN TWO POEMS IN THE MAN'YOUSHUU.

COUNTING THE SEVEN FLOWERS THAT BLOSSOM IN THE FIELDS OF AUTUMN ON YOUR FINGERS:
"CLOVER, SILVER GRASS, ARROWROOT, PINK DIANTHUS, PATRINIA, BONESET AND MORNING GLORY."

NOWADAYS, PEOPLE SAY THE SEVENTH IS CHINESE BELLFLOWER INSTEAD OF MORNING GLORY.

RATTLE
HIMA-WARI-SAN!
HEARING YOU TALK ABOUT AUTUMN REMINDS ME, AUTUMN IS THE SEASON FOR READING, ISN'T IT?


OH.
There are a few different flowers people say instead of morning glory, like hibiscus.

WELCOME, SAKURA...
LOOK, LOOK!
SHOCK
?!
STICKY
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WELCOME-SIES!
STOP.
IF YOU TOUCH A BOOK WITH THOSE HANDS
IT WILL GET ALL DIRTY.
COLD
FREEZE
SO,

Bell-Flower Dye Shop
HOW ABOUT I DYE YOUR FINGERS FOR YOU?

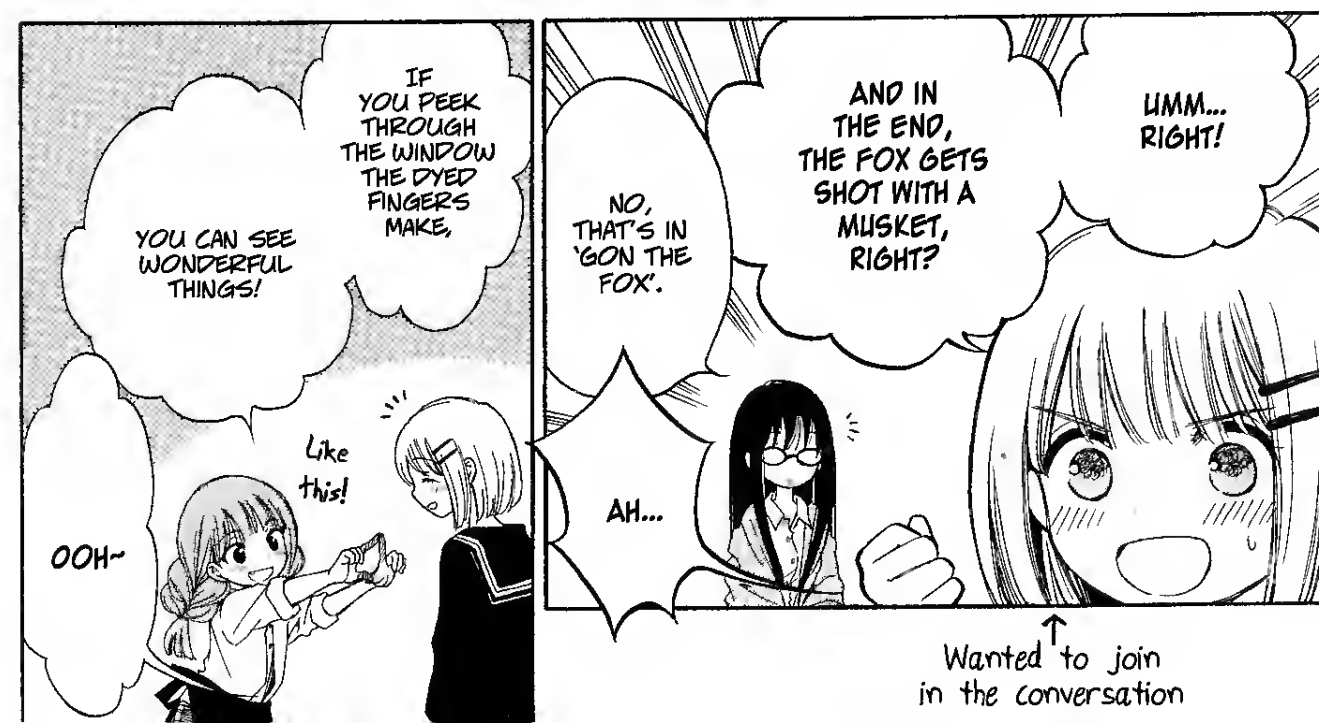
ERM, AH...
Sakura didn't know.
...I'M SORRY.

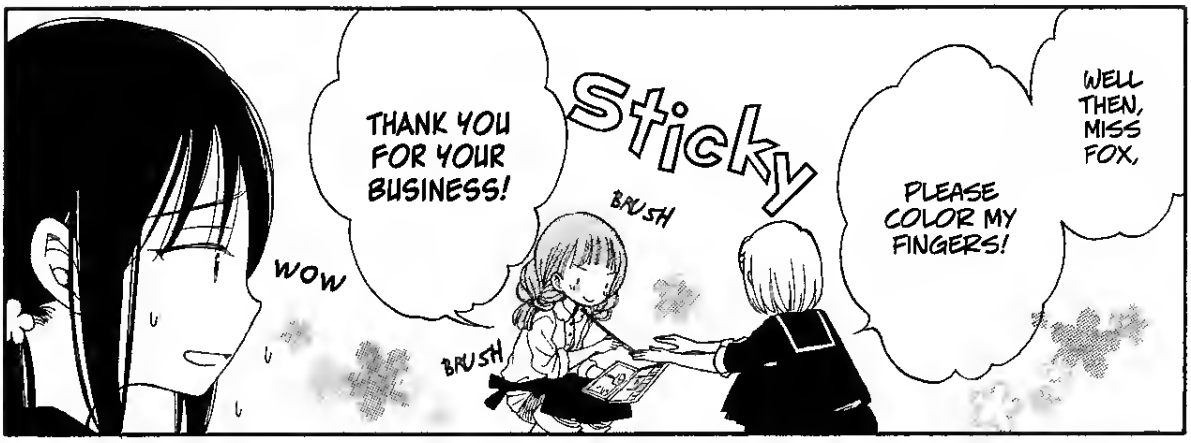
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO SET UP A BUSINESS IN FRONT OF SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOP?
Blue paint...
AH... SHE'S READ THE BOOK SHE BOUGHT BEFORE.

WORD HAS GOTTEN OUT!
YOU SEE, I PRACTICED ON RIN-CHAN EARLIER TODAY.
the painting
sorry!
PANIC
THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE.
Sorry

UH... I'M REALLY NO GOOD WITH CHILDREN.
No
Himawari-san, hold out your hand
Ball-Flower Dye Shop
AH, IT'S 'THE FOX'S WINDOW'.
Hello
WELCOME.
WELCOME-SIES!

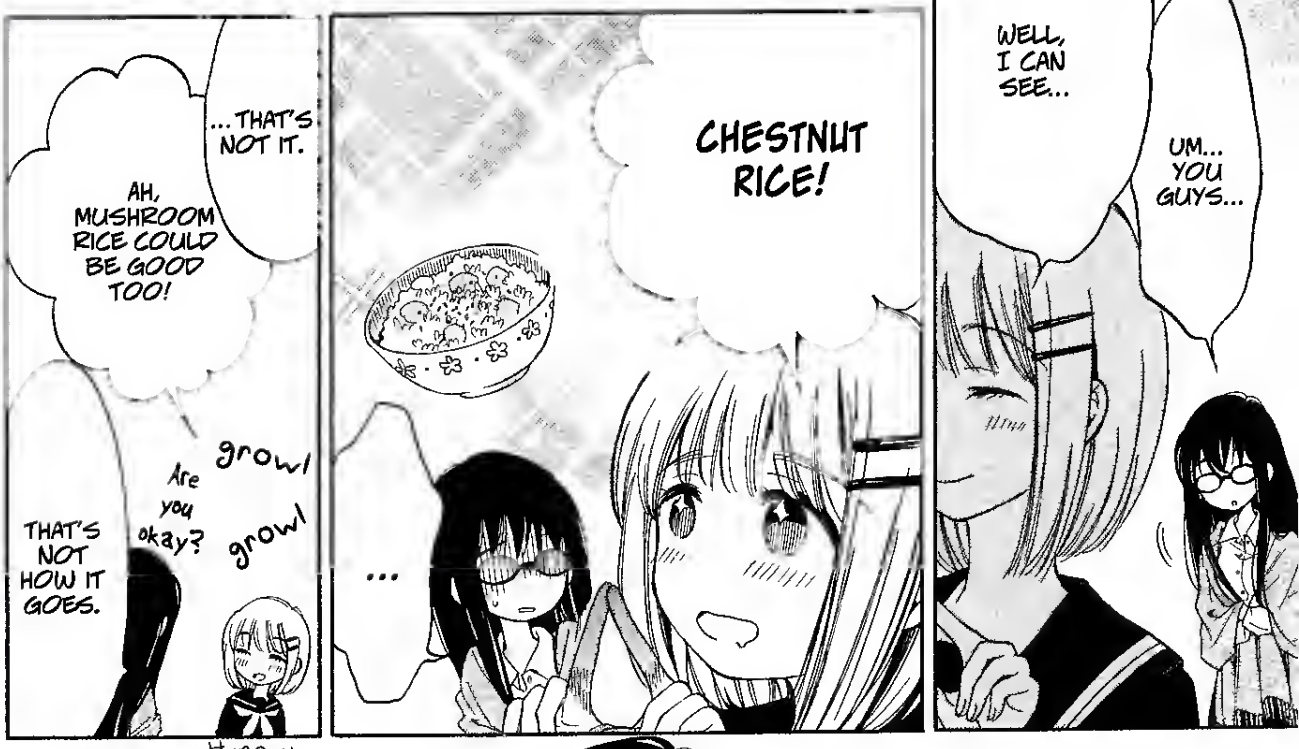
THE FOX'S WINDOW IS A BOOK BY AWANAOKO, RIGHT?
THAT WAS FEATURED IN THE NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL LITERATURE TEXTBOOK.
It brings back memories!
THAT'S RIGHT, THE PROTAGONIST GETS LOST IN THE FOREST,
AND SUDDENLY FINDS HIMSELF IN A GARDEN OF CHINESE BELLFLOWERS.
THEN, A FOX IN THE FORM OF A HUMAN CHILD IS THERE AT A DYE SHOP
AND DYES HIS HANDS BLUE WITH THE JUICE OF THE FLOWERS.
Dyed Goods
The thumb and fore-finger


UMM... RIGHT!
AND IN THE END, THE FOX GETS SHOT WITH A MUSKET, RIGHT?
NO, THAT'S IN 'GON THE FOX'.
AH...
IF YOU PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW THE DYED FINGERS MAKE,
YOU CAN SEE WONDERFUL THINGS!
Like this!
OOH~
Wanted to join in the conversation


WELL THEN, MISS FOX,
PLEASE COLOR MY FINGERS!
Sticky
BRUSH
BRUSH
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!
WOW

ERM...
I SEE MYSELF IN THE FUTURE AS A BRILLIANT EXPLORER!
Waah, awesome.

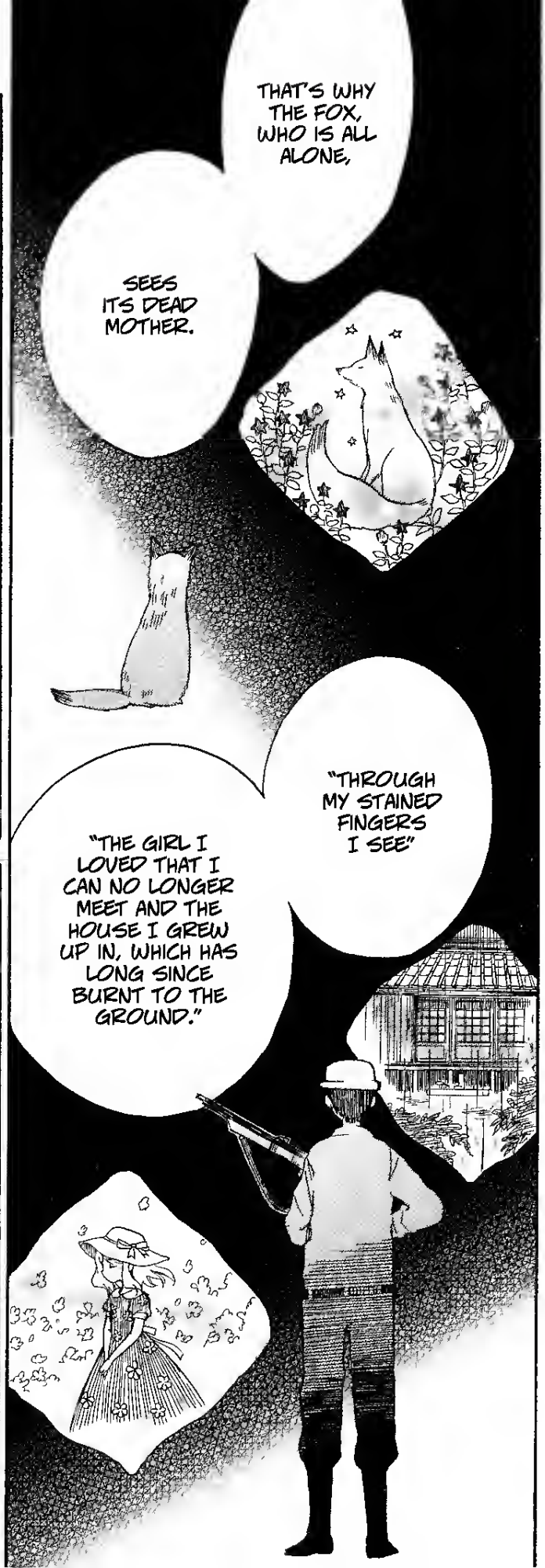
UM, WELL...
WHAT CAN YOU SEE, SAKURA-CHAN?


UM... YOU GUYS...
WELL, I CAN SEE...
CHESTNUT RICE!
...
...THAT'S NOT IT.
AH, MUSHROOM RICE COULD BE GOOD TOO!
THAT'S NOT HOW IT GOES.
Are you okay?
growl
growl
Hungry

WHAT YOU SEE THROUGH THE FOX'S WINDOW
ARE THE PEOPLE YOU YEARN TO BE WITH BUT CAN NEVER MEET AGAIN, A VISION OF THE PAST YOU CAN'T GO BACK TO.

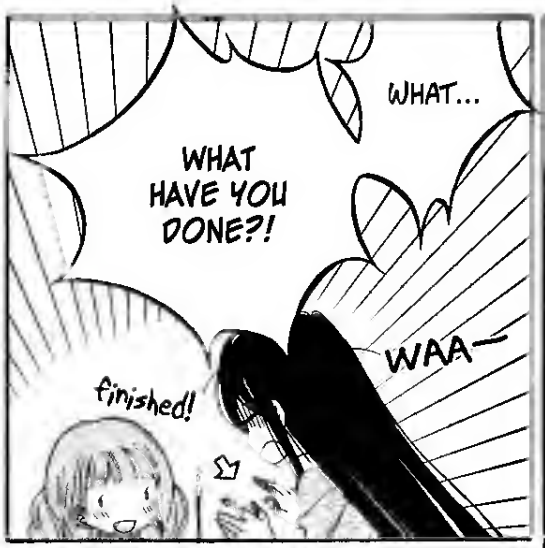
WAS THE STORY REALLY THAT SAD?
I THOUGHT HE WAS ENCHANTED BY THE FOX.
I thought it was a beautiful story.
THE PRO-TAGONIST WAS A HUNTER, WASN'T HE?

BRUSH—
GOING BACK TO READ A STORY WHEN YOU'RE OLDER CAN LEAVE A DIFFERENT IMPRESSION.


THAT'S WHY THE FOX, WHO IS ALL ALONE,
SEES ITS DEAD MOTHER.
"THROUGH MY STAINED FINGERS I SEE"
"THE GIRL I LOVED THAT I CAN NO LONGER MEET AND THE HOUSE I GREW UP IN, WHICH HAS LONG SINCE BURNT TO THE GROUND."

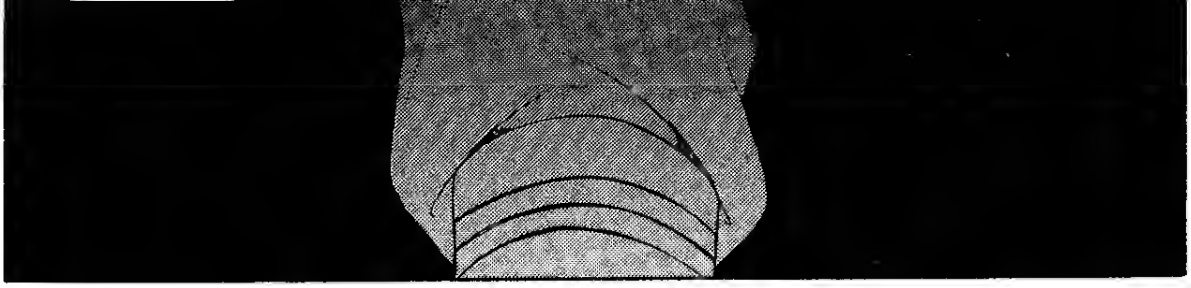
JOLT
Uh
HYAAH?!

AHAHA,
HIMA-WARI-SAN WAS REALLY CUTE JUST NOW.
Hold still
WHA...
WHAT?
You scared me!


WHAT...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
WAA—
finished!

Gasp
Blush
HIMA-WARI-SAN, SHOW ME YOUR FINGERS!

HIMAWARI-SAN, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN SEE!
AWW...
ARE THE PEOPLE YOU YEARN TO BE WITH BUT CAN NEVER MEET AGAIN.
WHAT YOU SEE THROUGH THE FOX'S WINDOW
WHAT I CAN...
...
I KNOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING.
I'M FINE...



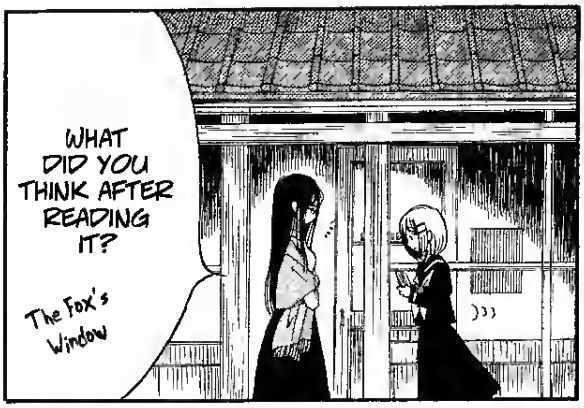
I THINK YOU'LL SEE SOMETHING IF YOU JUST TAKE A LOOK!

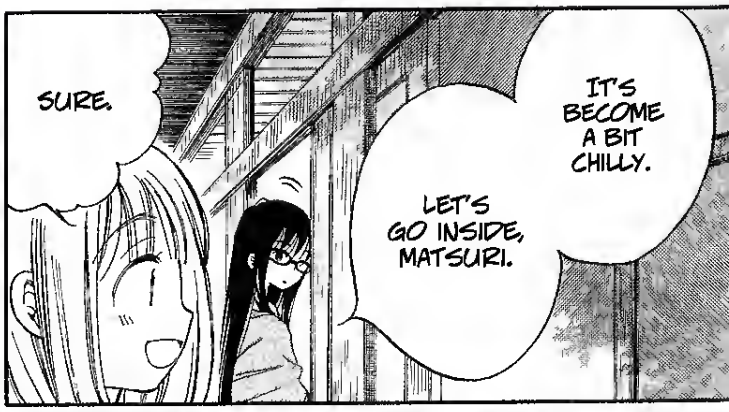
HOW IS IT?
THERE YOU GO!
HEY...
YAAAAY
ALL I CAN SEE IS YOU, MATSURI.
...
GET US IN TOO!
Y... YAY!
SHOCK
!?
BUMP
I'M HERE TOO, YAY!

...

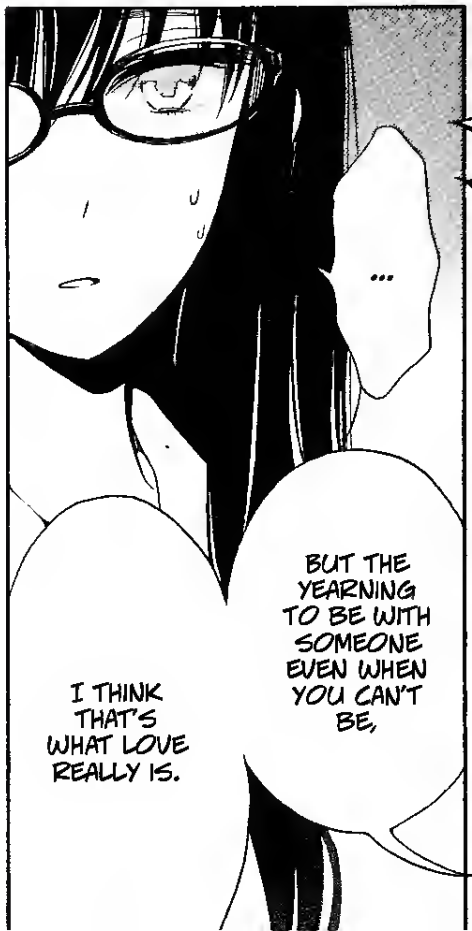
OOH... NANAKO'S BEING THE TSUKKOMI!
SNAP
WAIT. IT'S NOT A CAMERA!
Hmph!

Chuckle
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
SEE YOU TOMORROW!
See ya!
bye bye


WHAT DID YOU THINK AFTER READING IT?
The Fox's Window


SURE.
LET'S GO INSIDE, MATSURI.
IT'S BECOME A BIT CHILLY.

...RIGHT. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT MEANS.
IT HAS A REAL FLUFFY FEELING, DOESN'T IT!


...
I THINK THAT'S WHAT LOVE REALLY IS.
BUT THE YEARNING TO BE WITH SOMEONE EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T BE,

IMAGINING NOT BEING ABLE TO BE WITH YOU!
AAGHH!

PEERING THROUGH THE WINDOW, YOU SEE THE PEOPLE YOU CAN'T BE WITH ANYMORE,
WHICH FEELS REALLY SAD.

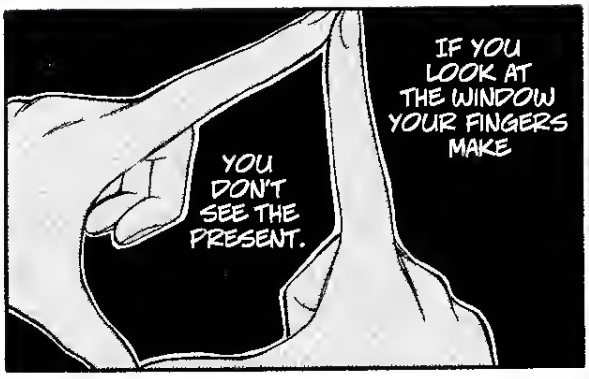
WHEN YOU THINK OF A LOVED ONE,
YOU GET A FLUFFY SORT OF WARM FEELING, RIGHT?

THAT'S EMBARRASSING!
The only thing being fluffy here is you!
EEH?

...
A PERSON YOU... LOVE...

Those were my impressions of the book...

SNAP
HIMAWARI-SAN?
EH?
FLUFFY, HUH?
...


IF YOU LOOK AT THE WINDOW YOUR FINGERS MAKE
YOU DON'T SEE THE PRESENT.

THE TIMES I REMEMBER
A CERTAIN PERSON IS NO LONGER HERE
I REALISE I'M ALONE

...FOR ME..
THE TRUTH IS, BRINGING UP SOME MEMORIES HAS ALWAYS BEEN PAINFUL.

...
BUT
YEAH
DID YOU SEE SOMETHING, HIMAWARI-SAN?
I SAW YOU.
YAY!
WHY DO YOU KEEP DOING THAT?

I WAS ABLE TO BECOME A LITTLE WARMER.

AH! THAT CLOUD LOOKS LIKE A FISH!
I REALLY WANT TO EAT PIKE NOW!
GROWL
IT REALLY IS THE AUTUMN OF APPETITE FOR YOU, ISN'T IT, MATSURI?

Translation notes/barely relevant waffling:

The poetry collection, Man'youshu is a historical collection of poems from the 8th century which various prominent poets of the time contributed to. This book is the origin of 'aki no nanakusa', the seven flowers which carry the image of autumn.

Pretty much all Japanese people would know about the seven flowers of autumn, but being able to name all of them is not common and knowing about their history again shows Miss Sunflower's knowledge of classical/historical literature, which we saw in the last chapter too.

'The Fox's Window' (Kitsune no Mado) isn't classical literature; it was published in 2010. It was fairly successful, but isn't particularly well known. The book Matsuri mixes it up with, 'Gon the Fox' (Gongitsune), on the other hand, is an extremely well known children's book from the 1930's that everyone would be familiar with (although, as Matsuri mentions, it has a quite sad ending, which isn't unusual in Japanese folk tales).

Finally, this chapter mentions 'The Autumn of Reading' and 'The Autumn of Appetite'. These are often-heard expressions and it's a fairly common cultural notion that Autumn is a season for taking it easy at home, reading, eating and appreciating the scenery. At the end of the chapter, when Miss Sunflower comments that Autumn to Matsuri is about appetite, she possibly means to indirectly joke on the fact that, for all the time she spends at the bookstore, Matsuri really doesn't seem to do a great deal of reading.

Hanabi

p.s. It's highly likely I'm missing a great deal of references in some of these chapters. I'm actually taking a course in classical Japanese literature (of all things), but until then, please let us, or other readers know if you recognise one. I've already translated the four chapters following this one and written scripts for them, so I'll keep an eye out when going back over scripts.

Himawari-san Chapter 32

Sugano Manami

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Quality Check: Dr Pepperfan

Any excuse to get Minami-chan on the credits page.